

Afghanistan **Freedom** Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan **Watch**

September 19, 2005

Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan



**EOD, Marines
hunt for caches
Page 12**



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Air Force Airman 1st Class James Irvin, 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, an electrical environmental technician, deployed from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., installs a cabin pressure regulator into an A-10 aircraft.

Photo by Air Force Airman 1st Class Desiree Hayden

Page 3: Commentary ("Hey Soldier, slow down")

Page 4: IED cell stopped; vets honored

Page 5: Twelve enemy killed in Zabul

Page 6: Laghman gets ready for elections

Page 8: Polish Sappers clear mine fields ►

Page 10: Polish Sapper photo page

Page 11: Critical resupply saves lives

Page 12: The hunt for caches

Page 14: Around the Services

Page 15: VETCAP ►

Cover: Army Sgt. 1st Class Dave Thompson, 749th Explosive Ordnance Detonation team leader, walks back from a HMMWV that was hit by an improvised explosive device.

**Photo by Army Spc. Jason Krawczyk
20th Public Affairs Detachment**



Afghanistan Freedom Watch

Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan

Freedom Watch is the weekly publication of Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan.

CFC-A Commander - Lt. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry
Public Affairs Officer - Col. James R. Yonts

Freedom Watch, an Army publication, is published each Monday by the 20th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Printed circulation is 6,000 copies per week.

In accordance with AR-360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of the *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

Deadline for submissions is 0730 Zulu each Friday. All submissions are subject to editing by the 20th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Bldg. 425, Room 107, Bagram Airfield. We can be reached at DSN 318-231-3338.

Freedom Watch Staff

Commander - Capt. T.G. Taylor
NCOIC - Sgt. Douglas DeMaio
Editor - Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie
Journalists - Staff Sgt. Ken Denny
Sgt. Matthew MacRoberts, Spc. Jason Krawczyk
Spc. Tiffany Evans, Pfc. Vincent Fusco

Visit the CFC-A Web site at
www.cfc-a.centcom.mil

Click on the *Freedom Watch* link in the features section to view the *Freedom Watch*. To be added to the weekly distribution list, e-mail freedomwatch@baf.af.mil

Hey Soldier, slow down

By Army Sgt. Douglas DeMaio
20th Public Affairs Detachment

For the moron who passed me on new Bagram road traveling well over 100 kph, I have just two words for you.

Slow Down!

When I'm not traveling around the theater covering stories on the great job our Coalition service members are doing in Afghanistan, I travel to Kabul routinely.

When I do this, some convoy traveling at an unsafe speed usually passes me.

When this happens, I often prepare myself to face the grim reality that I may have to guard the body of a dead Soldier whose life could have been spared had the convoy commander been responsible enough to set an acceptable driving speed.

A few weeks back, I came across a situation where I thought I was going to face this reality; fortunately, the Soldier did not die and was in stable enough condition for my vehicle to transport this young Soldier to the hospital at Bagram Airfield.

This Soldier, whose convoy passed me 10 minutes prior to me arriving at the scene of the crash, had rear-ended a jingle truck.

During our conversation to keep this Soldier from going into shock, I heard the most astonishing comment from him.

He said, "I slowed down to 100 k."

By the way, that's like saying I slowed down to 62 mph.

During our conversation to keep this Soldier from going into shock, I heard the most astonishing comment from him. He said, "I slowed down to 100k" By the way, that's like saying I slowed down to 62 mph.

Granted, he may have been suffering from a concussion, but seeing the up-armored vehicle he had destroyed, the comment seemed somewhat accurate.

The thought of that comment perplexes me still.

Repeatedly I see unsafe, Mario Andretti style of driving from here to Kabul and it makes little sense to me.

Kind of like that young Soldier's comment.

Why must our service members drive so fast and recklessly from here to Kabul?

Isn't 70 kph a safe enough speed?

I understand we are in a combat zone and that improvised explosive devices are outside the wire, but let us be realistic. Traveling at an extreme rate of speed puts people's lives at risk.

How do I know this?

Well here is a simple fact you cannot dispute. More than half the

deaths of service members in Afghanistan are non-combat related.

The service members who are out in the most remote areas of Afghanistan do not have the luxury of traveling at speeds exceeding 10 kph and they are far more at risk of being hit by an IED than we are traveling on these paved roads to and from Kabul.

Yet there have been more U.S. deaths due to accidents than engagements with the enemy.

So next time you convoy to Kabul, do us all a favor and travel at a safe speed - your life may depend on it.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

A HMMWV, manned by New Zealand soldiers, awaits a U.S. Air Force flight into Bamyán Airfield.

*Photo by New Zealand army Staff Sgt. Tim Rowe
Bamyán Provincial Reconstruction Team*

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil.

Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.



IED cell stopped in Paktika Province

By Army Sgt. Tara Teel
Combined Joint Task Force-76
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Afghan forces, supported by Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, detained nine suspected enemy in northern Paktika Province between Aug. 20 and Sept. 2 as part of multiple offensive

operations to maintain a stable environment in the area.

Four suspected leaders and advisors of a criminal cell were detained in Spina Village, Omna district, along with Taliban propaganda on audio tapes and ammunition.

Three others were detained in the Sharan district with improvised explosive device materials in their possession, including explosives, wires and

cell phones.

Those detained have been linked to an IED cell working in the region.

Two more were detained in association with the Sharan IED cell as well as a plot to kidnap and kill an ANP officer or member of Coalition Force.

"The detainment of these enemy forces by a combined force of Afghan National Police and Afghan National

Army forces represents a significant blow to the ACM in this region," said Army Lt. Col. Timothy P. McGuire, commander of the 1st Bn., 508th PIR.

"Afghan security forces are working hard to ensure a successful National Assembly Election and long term peace and prosperity."

World War II vets honored at 60th anniversary

By Army Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - World War II veterans gathered with military, political and diplomatic leaders and the public to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the war's end Sept. 2 at the World War II Memorial on the National Mall here.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld sponsored the event, and military leaders from every branch as well as other countries attended, along with diplomatic representatives from more than 50 countries.

In his speech, Secretary Rumsfeld thanked the veterans for their service, say-

ing that the young Americans who fought in World War II played an important role in history.

"With faith, they entered a fierce and blinding storm, and from their blood and sacrifice, the world was made anew," he said.

It is hard for anyone of this generation to fully understand what this anniversary means to the veterans who experienced it firsthand 60 years ago, Secretary Rumsfeld said, but he pledged that this country will never forget the sacrifices they made or the lessons they learned.

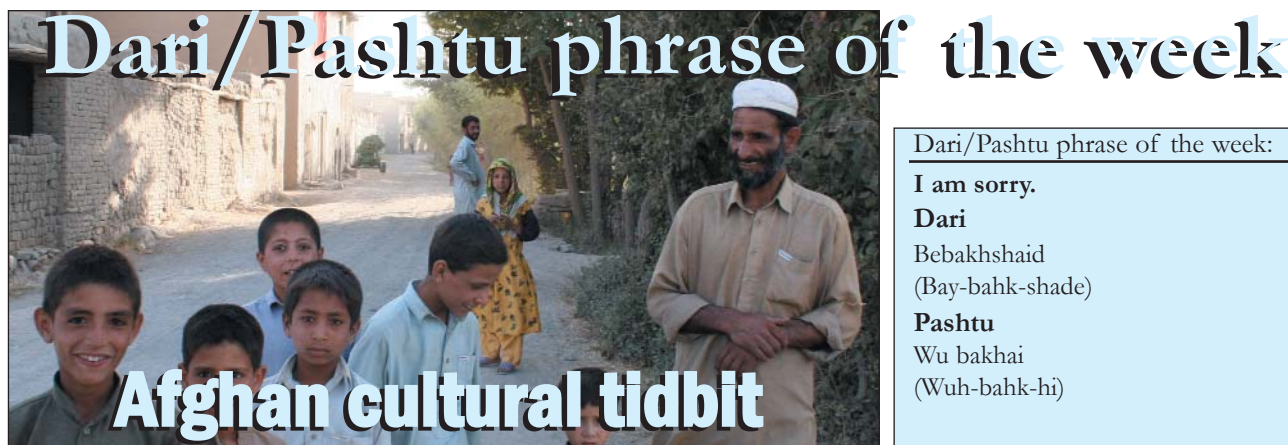
"As long as we have freedom and as long as our flag still waves, our country will

honor you," he told the veterans. "With civilization again in peril, we pledge to remember those lessons forged amid the tumult and triumph of that world war, and we pledge to ensure the survival of the freedoms entrusted to us."

Retired Army Gen. John W. Vessey, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a World War II veteran himself, called World War II the defining event of the 20th century.

Allied victory in the war unleashed unprecedented forces for political, economic and social change, General Vessey said. Veterans who returned to America

See WWII, page 14



Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week:

I am sorry.

Dari

Bebakhshaid
(Bay-bahk-shade)

Pashtu

Wu bakhai
(Wuh-bahk-hi)

Afghanistan has a tradition of nomadism in which herds of sheep, goats and occasionally cattle are taken up to high mountain pastures for extended periods of time. There are few true nomads today -- people with no permanent residence who migrate with their flocks. The typical herdsman is usually a small farmer as well, with a permanent home and village from which he takes his flocks to summer pasturage, leaving family members behind to care for the crops.

12 enemy killed in Zabul Province

By Army Sgt. Tara Teel
Combined Joint Task Force-76
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Afghan and Coalition forces killed 12 enemy and detained another nine in Zabul Province Sept. 5.

The forces were conducting operational patrols to engage the enemy in their staging areas before they execute operations

designed to influence or disrupt the election process in the Zabul area.

Members of the 2nd Brigade, 205th Corps Afghan National Army; 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment; and Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment received small-arms fire from an unknown number of enemy as

they were inserted by helicopters into the area.

Coalition fixed-wing and attack helicopters provided close air support to forces on the ground.

"These Soldiers have guts," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Meyers, 2-503rd PIR. "They showed courage not just in going after the enemy, but by going right up the moun-

tains and diving across the rocks. We were engaged as soon as we got off the helicopters. We returned fire, and the enemy fell, one by one."

The initial battle damage assessment found various material used for making improvised explosive devices.

There were no Afghan or Coalition casualties from the operation.

Governor's conference aims to unite region

JALALABAD, Afghanistan - The Nangarhar province governor hosted a regional conference for more than 70 key representatives from Nangarhar, Laghman, Nuristan and Konar provinces at the Governor's Palace recently.

Officials identified challenges and solutions to security for upcoming elections and discussed plans in order to share resources, improve regional practices and funding from the government.

The government representatives held a press conference following the meeting

stressing to citizens the importance of strengthening relationships with other provinces to build regional loyalties.

Afghan Col. Ibhar, deputy border police chief, sent a clear message to the enemies of Afghanistan who are causing problems at the province's border with Pakistan.

"We will defend the border of Afghanistan to the last drop of our blood," he said.

The conference displayed eastern Afghanistan's regional governments' desire to set conditions for safe elections

and to unite in a common vision for regional development. The Afghan officials agreed working with local and national leaders toward a goal of a self-sufficient government at the provincial levels was attainable and essential.

"We cannot change the past, but together we can change the future of Afghanistan forever," said Governor Safi of Laghman Province.

Courtesy of Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan Public Affairs

Enduring Voices

What has been instilled in you during your deployment?



Army Spc. Jdaniel Riggan
Office of Security
Cooperation-Afghanistan

"I've learned what it really means to take care of your own since joining the military."



Army Capt. Calina Saucedo
HHC CJTF-76

"Loyalty, compassion, and duty while serving those who serve in the Armed Forces."



Air Force Staff Sgt. John Marquez
CFC-A

"Leadership and responsibility because it helps me to accomplish my job."



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Patrick Leslie
Navy Mobile Construction Battalion - 74

"I've had my self-confidence improved because of all the responsibility given to me at a moments notice."

New weapons fire up ANP



Photo by Air Force 1st Lt. Leslie Brown

Afghan National Police Col. Allah Noor Mohammadi (second from right), inspects a crate of rifles with (from left) U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jose Lebron, Office of Security Cooperation-Afghanistan, ANP Lt. Col. Hikma Tullah, and an interpreter.

By Air Force 1st Lt. Leslie Brown
Office of Security Cooperation-Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan - The Afghan National Police increased their ability to train under realistic conditions recently when the ANP's six Regional Training Centers received shipments of new weapons for use in training the police force.

The need for the new weapons at the RTCs was urgent. Mock rifles had been used to train the police officers.

"We desperately needed these weapons," said Charles Wilson, the DynCorp lead advisor and police mentor to the commander at the Herat RTC. "We have been training the police with wooden weapons without movable parts. Now we can start training them with the weapons they will be using."

Realistic training means more confident policemen when they are out fulfilling

their duties, he said.

The Hungarian government donated 18,800 new AMD-65s to the ANP. Similar to an AK-47, the AMD-65 has a rifle stock that folds to become more compact and fires 7.62-caliber ammunition, the same type of round used in the AK-47.

Afghan National Police Col. Allah Noor Mohammadi, commander of the Herat RTC, was elated to see the initial arrival of the new weapons and immediately inspected the shipment.

"These weapons will be used right away for training our policemen," Mohammadi said. "When we receive the entire inventory we will begin distributing them to all those who are trained. We need them for the security of Afghanistan."

The weapons distribution plan is being carried out in two phases. The first phase began in early July when the first shipment of 90 AMD-65s was delivered to

the Kandahar RTC.

Deliveries of 90 weapons each to the remaining RTCs in Herat, Gardez, Jalalabad, Konduz and Mazar-e-Sharif were completed by Aug 21.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jose Lebron, a logistics plans manager from the Office of Security Cooperation-Afghanistan, helped develop the weapons distribution plan for the ANP.

"The initial distribution of the training weapons will include three magazines and a sling for each weapon, enough to begin proper training," Lebron said.

During the second phase, all six of the RTCs will receive additional new weapons to distribute to police officers as they complete their training and report to their assignments.

"Our goal is to have all of the weapons delivered and in use prior to the September elections," Lebron said.

See ANP, next page

Lagman prepares for elections

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Lum
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LAGMAN, Afghanistan - The electrical upgrade at Forward Operating Base Lagman has now turned into a full-blown construction project.

Hawaii's 298th Engineer Detachment is assisting in FOB Lagman's expansion.

"In less than two weeks, our three-person team brought the electrical wiring up to code," said Army Sgt. Jon M. Julius, a 298th electrician from Kapolei, Hawaii. "We finished running hundreds of feet of cable, installing outlet boxes and building a generator shelter for the provincial reconstruction team pole barn."

Next, they built transient quarters for the force provider Soldiers joining the FOB's during the election process. Logistics included selecting the construction site, drawing up plans and ordering materials. A leveled soccer field provided an ideal platform for the 20 tents.

"Thirteen carpenter/masons and plumbers joined the team," said Army Spc. Michael C. Bearis, a social worker from Ewa Beach, Hawaii. "We finished the decks in less than a week. Close on our tail were Afghan workers who erected the tents. All that is left is wiring the 'rooms' for lighting and outlets."

"I've only got a three-man team of technicians here," said Kalman J. Szazay, KBR's Lagman team leader. "These guys have been a blessing. They're quick and efficient. They do quality work and always wear a smile."

Added to the list of projects is a pole barn for the Army mechanics and an office for the intelligence staff of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeri G. Coleman, the 503rd liaison non-commissioned officer with the 298th, could not respond to the Hawaii engineers' request for more building materials fast enough. "They keep completing projects days and weeks ahead of schedule."

ANP, from previous page

The ammunition for the weapons will be delivered with the larger shipments in phase two.

After the second phase of distribution to the training centers is complete, the next priority is to equip the Afghan Border Police with the new weapons.

"We are starting from the

outside and working in," Lebron said.

"Securing the borders of Afghanistan is a very important first step."

After the border police receive new weapons, the ANP regional commands in the south and east of Afghanistan receive their issue.

In addition to the



Photo by Army Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Lum

Army Spc. Michael C. Bearis, an electrician with the 298th Engineer Detachment, prepares an electrical box for final assembly.

Hungarian weapons donation, other members of the International Community donated more than 2 million rounds of ammunition to Afghanistan for use with the rifles.

Additionally, DynCorp, the private contractor that mentors and trains the ANP at the regional training centers, transported the weapons to

all of the RTCs using their own aircraft.

"The weapons and ammunition donations and their delivery methods are truly a Coalition project," Lebron said.

"The concerted efforts of all of those involved will enable the ANP to be proficient in fire arms and enforcing the rule of law."

Fields of fire



Polish army Sgt. Piotr Slabon probes a potential mine after his metal detector indicated an object was near the surface. Slabon and his comrades are part of the Polish Sappers stationed at Bagram Airfield.

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Matthew MacRoberts
20th Public Affairs Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – While many service members slept, a team of Polish sappers readied their gear Aug. 24 and set out for a field near tower one to destroy one of the mines they had uncovered during the previous days work.

During the past month, while working in the field across the street from the bazaar parking lot, the soldiers have found and destroyed more than 46 explosive devices; two TM62M anti-tank mines, two YM-1 anti-personnel mines, seven other various mines, 20 mortars, and 15 rocket propelled grenades.

"It is not often that I find a mine, it's mostly a piece of metal," said Polish army Sgt. Piotr Slabon, one of the sappers who recently found a YM-1 anti-personnel mine. "You don't know if it's a mine or not. (The YM-1) is a very small mine, but it's very dangerous because it has very little metal in it making it very hard to detect.

Their work day starts at 4:30 a.m. and finishes midday because of the heat. After destroying the mine, the sappers put together their metal detectors and started their 30-minute shifts to look for more ordnance.

In the middle of the field, there are two underground bunkers, which presented a serious threat to the Polish soldiers.

Going into them and probing for mines and other explosives held a high risk factor prompting them to call the Air Force's explosive ordinance disposal office on Bagram Airfield.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Joshua Mal and Master Sgt. Jon Ford arrived in the morning with a Packbot, a remote controlled EOD robot that would be used to scout the inside of the bunkers for mines and booby traps. While searching the second bunker, the soldiers and Airmen on site visually identified two Type 72 anti-personnel mines, a RPG, a grenade and a recoilless rifle shell. These munitions were in sight of the ladders leading into the bunker.

The sappers, EOD and mine action team members decided to leave the bunkers alone for now and have the Polish focus on clearing the land around the bunkers.

While searching for mines the sappers have to probe by hand any objects their metal detectors find.

"It is very exciting to find a mine," said Slabon. "You get a lot of adrenaline when you find one. Sappers are only allowed one mistake."

Polish army Sgt. Krzysztof Mariarz, another sapper that found a mine said, "I'm not so nervous while looking for mines."

He explained that it is a very methodical and planned process that he keeps him safe. "But, when I find a mine I have to stop and ask myself if there could be a second mine nearby, one hidden by a stronger signal of the first mine."

During an average day, the Polish sappers clear more than 100-square meters of ground using metal detectors and probing techniques. They have been working in the general area of tower one for five months now.

"It's very difficult work to find mines here," said Slabon. "Normally mines are laid in a pattern. Here they are scattered in no particular order."

Slabon said, with a hint of pride, no Polish sappers have been injured while clearing fields here.

About working as a sapper here, Maziarz said, "I like the adventure, but mines have killed a lot of people - especially small children. I wanted to help clear the soil to make it safe."

More photos on next page

Polish army Sgt. Bartek Warchol checks Sgt. Piotr Slabon's metal detector for proper operation with a special test device before he enters a minefield on Bagram Airfield.



Photos by Army Sgt. Matthew MacRoberts



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jon Ford, an explosive ordnance disposal expert, lowers a Packbot down an entrance to a bunker to look for more mines and ordnance. At the other entrances, service members found a rocket propelled grenade and two anti-personnel mines.

"I like the adventure, but mines have killed a lot of people -- especially small children. I wanted to help clear the soil to make it safe."

Polish army Sgt. Piotr Slabon, Polish Sapper



EOD experts from the U.S. Army and Air Force, and Polish army watch the remote screen as a Packbot searches a bunker.

Critical resupply saves lives



Photo by Air Force Airman 1st Class Desiree L. Hayden, 379th Communications Squadron Multimedia

Members of the 745th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, deployed from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, load cargo in preparation for two air-land missions in a C-130H aircraft to supply ground troops with equipment.

By Air Force Staff
Sgt. Shanda De Anda
 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - The C-130 Hercules crew prepares for a combat landing touch down on an Afghanistan runway that's little more than a dirt strip Aug. 23.

Their mission was a double-shuttle air-land mission in the eastern region of Afghanistan to resupply Army and Marine troops on the ground to help the Afghan National Army prepare for the Sept. 18 free elections. The mission, which included the delivery of 39,310 pounds of cargo, is just one of numerous deliveries made throughout Afghanistan.

"The support we provided to the Marines was part of Operation Whalers, a subset of Operation Vigilant Sentinel, and we continue to support the Army as part of Vigilant Sentinel," said Air Force Maj. Jay Brawka, 745th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron aircraft commander and deployed mission commander.

The C-130 Hercules primarily performs the tactical portion of the airlift mission and its operational capabilities from rough terrain and dirt strips makes it prime transport for air and land drops in

hostile areas. These assets led to the decision to have the C-130H aircraft and crews from the 745th EAS, a squadron under the 379th Expeditionary Wing, temporarily relocate to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

The crew, which deployed here Aug. 10, has answered the call for supplies in the field on a near continuous basis since their arrival. Having a crew here in the war, closer to the areas that require the increased need of C-130H cargo drops, provides a quick reaction force to make sure those in need of have it. The crews have successfully executed these missions since their arrival.

"We're the long-haul truckers of the sky," said Air Force Maj. Clayne Bradley, 745th EAS navigator. "We get the stuff there so people can use it."

"The airlift community understands the importance of ensuring the beans, butter and bullets make it to the troops in the field on time, every time," said Air Force Maj. John Boccieri, 745th EAS pilot and tactics officer. "The Air Force, Army and Marines jointly plan these airdrops and utilize the high-altitude airdrop capabilities."

Airlift operations are essential to maintaining the safety and security of the

region and helping to ensure free elections, Boccieri said.

In ensuring continued success, getting supplies where and when they are needed is critical.

Supply requests for cargo originate with the unit requesting the supplies - Army or Marine units in the field. Requests are routed through the unit's logistics chain to the Air Mobility Division at the Combined Air Operations Center. Once a final decision is made, Air Terminal Operations Center sends a message that sets all of the players in motion.

"Making these missions a reality relies on the joint efforts of the Afghanistan National Army, U.S. Army and Marine Corps and as well as many other players," said Brawka. "We appreciate all of their contributions of and the help and support we have received from the people here at Bagram, especially the support we received from the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing - we couldn't get these missions done without them."

The duration of the mission here will depend on the needs of those in the field. Regardless of how long the 745th EAS is here, they are committed to making all their missions a success, the unit's leadership said.



Photos by Army Spc. Jason Krawczyk

Army Sgt. 1st Class Dave Thompson, 749th Explosive Ordnance Detonation team leader, walks back from a HMMWV that was hit by an improvised explosive device.

Marines, Army EOD hunt for caches

By Army Spc. Jason Krawczyk
20th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP BLESSING, Afghanistan - Marines and an explosive ordnance disposal team combined assets to seek out and destroy a weapons cache in the Konar Province.

Acting on intelligence from an informant, the group headed out to find the caches and see that the weapons end up in the right hands.

"Having EOD out here makes searching buildings and moving to the caches a lot easier," said Marine 1st Lt. Matts Bartels, officer in charge of Camp Blessing.

Before entering buildings in a village, EOD checked them out for potential booby-traps.

"We never know what may be around the next corner and it is always better to be careful," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Dave Thompson, EOD team leader. "There is no point dying because you wanted to save a little time."

Once the buildings were cleared, the Marines searched for the cache.

"Some times the intelligence is good and we find a cache, other times it's not so good. Find a cache or not, the people see that we are out looking and that in its self is a deterrent," said Bartels.

When the Marines located the cache, EOD moved in and inspected the ordnance to see if the weapons were serviceable or safe to move. If the caches are too unstable to move, they are blown in place. If it is safe to transport the weapons and explosive, they're hauled back to camp.

Back at camp, they separated the cache in to two piles -- usable and unusable, Bartels said. The usable ones were given to the Afghan Nation Army and the unusable ones were destroyed.

"Every piece of ordnance and weapons we recover is one more that can't be used against Coalition forces," Bartels said.



A house suspected of containing ordnance is detonated from a safe distance.



Photos by Army Spc. Jason Krawczyk

Marine 1st Lt. Matt Bartels, Camp Blessing's officer in charge, cuts the lock on a door to a suspected cache.



749th Explosive Ordnance Detonation team member Army Pfc. Isaac Jenkins views the camera image from a robot inspecting a HMMWV hit by an IED.



A shot (pre-arranged explosion) is set up by EOD team members to dispose of ordnance.



Mortar rounds discovered in a cache by EOD Soldiers and U.S. Marines stand ready for destruction.

Hurricane victims evacuated to NAS

By Loren Barnes
Naval Hospital Jackson
Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Forty-two victims of Hurricane Katrina were medically evacuated to Jacksonville, Fla., Sept. 4, arriving at Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

The evacuated patients were flown from New Orleans to Jacksonville aboard an Air Force C-130 aircraft.

The casualties consisted of 31 litter patients and 11 walking patients.

The City of Jacksonville implemented its mass casualty incident plan and mobilized emergency response assets from the entire community to assist in this effort.

This involved receipt, triage and transport of these patients to appropriate care facilities.

Agencies involved included City of Jacksonville Fire and Rescue, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, all of the private ambulance services in the city, as well as volunteers from such organizations as the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross.

Nearly every private-sector hospital in the city was on call to receive patients. Navy assets were also brought to bear, including base security and fire

department personnel, Sailors from NAS Jacksonville and its tenant commands, who served as litter bearers on the flight line and Naval Hospital Jacksonville emergency response personnel, who helped coordinate the evolution.

Navy Capt. Chip Dobson, NAS Jacksonville commanding officer, said of Navy involvement, "I think, like anyone in the country or in the world watching things on TV this week, your heart has to go out to these people. And people want to do something. So to be able to be part of this and to be able to say, 'OK, this plane-load of people are in a better place because they're here in a local Jacksonville hospital' feels good. We hope to be able to do as much as we can."

Dobson also said things seemed to go smoothly. "We got the people out in an orderly manner and got them sorted out to where they need to go," he said.

Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Division Chief of Rescue Charles Moreland, the incident commander handling the medical movement of all the patients from the scene, agreed. Moreland coordinated getting the patients from the aircraft to the ground transport vehicles and out the gates to area hospitals.

"It's been great," Moreland said. "I think every agency was good."

"I think everyone understands that we have a critical mission to get accomplished, and everyone pulls together to get it accomplished in as short a time as possible, he said. All the family members were out and headed either to the hospital or to a shelter, and all the patients were taken to the appropriate hospital in less than an hour," he noted.

To accomplish this, transport vehicles and EMT crews from nearly every ambulance service in the city were called up, and virtually every hospital in the city prepared to take patients. Care was taken to distribute the patient load evenly so as not to overwhelm any one medical facility.

Consideration of each patient's condition was a key element in deciding where they would be sent. "Patients with specific conditions might have to go to a more acute facility," Moreland explained, "such as a stroke center."

Mostly what he saw were patients who seemed to be suffering from conditions such as dehydration. Others needed dialysis.

"Some had just poor health in general, and their entire medical history dictated that they needed to be evaluated,"

he said. "A few had diabetes, and their sugar level might have been low, so they needed to be evaluated at a hospital, especially if they had not been able to take their medicines."

In addition to caring for the litter patients, the team was also prepared to care for family members accompanying their loved ones. The JTA provided 15 full-capacity buses that could hold about 40 people each as well as five special needs vehicles to transport family members to shelters.

Moreland explained, "Normally one family member is allowed to go with the patient to the hospital if there is a need for that to take place. The other family members will go to the shelter where they can get cleaned up. Then a JTA bus goes around and picks them up and brings them to the hospital, where they can be with their family member. That way they get a chance to get cleaned up, get a meal and spend time with their family before going back to the shelter to rest."

Dana Shropshire, Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Disaster Response Officer, said after the last patient had left the flight line, "I'm very proud of Jacksonville today. We have the best, most dedicated disaster response teams in the United States as far as I'm concerned."

From WWII, page 3

revitalized the country by attending colleges and universities, building new homes and businesses, sparking a technological revolution and providing political leadership, he said.

"Today, both the hairlines and the ranks of the World War II veterans are thinning rapidly," he said. "We know that whatever we accomplished was built on the founda-

tion our forebearers had laid for this great nation."

General Vessey said he hopes the people who fought in the war will not be forgotten and that lessons learned during the largest and costliest war in history will live on and be taught to future generations.

"We hope that this memorial will be a perpetual reminder of the blood and sweat that our generation contributed,"

he said.

Veterans at the ceremony were treated to performances by the U.S. Navy Band and its vocal chorus, the Sea Chanters, as well as the Liberty Belles, a United Service Organizations 1940s-style troupe. General Vessey and Secretary Rumsfeld laid a wreath at the memorial's Field of Stars, which honors all those killed in World War II.

Veterinarians make Afghanistan healthier

By Army Sgt. Matthew MacRoberts
20th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Animal health is a concern for Afghan shepherds today and may be a major factor in the quality of herds for years to come.

For 20 years Army Dr. (Lt. Col.) Mark J. Martinez, a veterinarian, has made it his mission to treat and research diseases affecting animals and working in bio-defense research.

Martinez is now applying his expertise toward healing the ill animals in Afghan villages so the future of the stocks will be stronger and healthier.

Working with the Civil Military Assistance Team from Bagram Airfield, Martinez averages two or three missions a month.

"The veterinary component of the CMA mission routinely treats several hundred head of livestock per mission day," he said. "This can range up to well over one thousand animals per day in certain areas, for example, when tending to the Kuchi livestock.

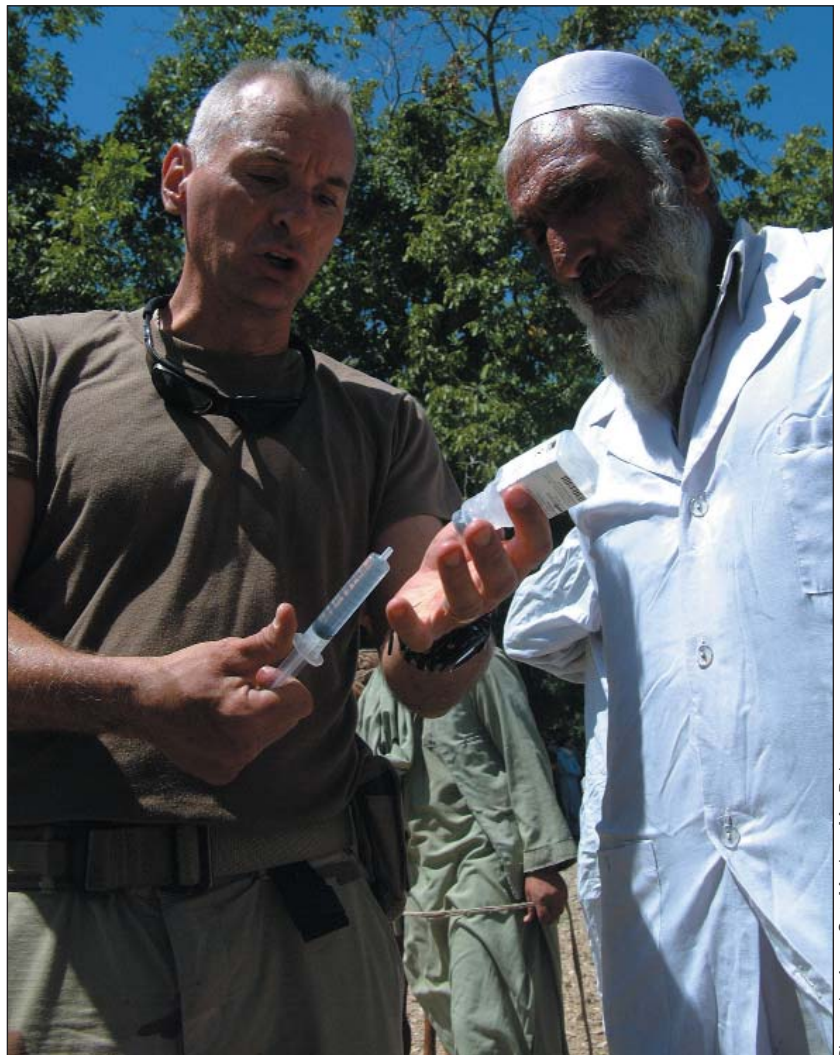
"We do our work primarily in areas where there are no veterinary services. Afghans, both villagers and Kuchi nomads, are very grateful for the veterinary care we provide."

There are a wide variety of animal diseases in Afghanistan and its neighboring countries in central and south Asia.

Only a few of these diseases can effect humans, such as anthrax, tuberculosis, brucellosis, rabies, and some internal parasitism; however, these are relatively uncommon.

By treating for parasites and vaccinating against devastating animal diseases, Martinez and other veterinarians improve the livestock's health and productivity, such as milk production or meat yield.

In the case of work animals, the care keeps those animals that



Photos by Army Sgt. Matthew MacRoberts

Army Dr. (Lt. Col.) Mark J. Martinez shows an Afghan veterinarian, at the site of a future Afghan government veterinarian clinic, what medication he uses on large farm animals.

plow fields or are used as pack animals healthy.

"A vast majority of rural Afghans, 80 to 85 percent, depend on livestock in some fashion for their economic livelihood,"

said Martinez.

In Martinez's area of operations, the big plan of rebuilding Afghanistan is to rebuild the private-sector veterinary services which used to be widely available to farmers, many years ago before the invasion by the former Soviet Union and repression by the Taliban regime.

This rebuilding of the veterinary infrastructure is being spearheaded by the U.S. Agency for International Development's Rebuilding Agricultural Markets Program in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and nongovernmental organizations such as the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan.

Villagers wait with sheep and other livestock at a veterinary civil affairs project.



Freedom Watch

September 19, 2005

**I am a soldier, I
fight where I
am told, and
I win where I
fight.**

General George Patton Jr.

